

a.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA consisting of a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:45 or NO:46.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting mRNA of an IgA nephropathy-related gene using the DNA according to claims 1 or 3 any one of claims 1, 3 or 23.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting transcription of an IgA nephropathy-related gene or translation of mRNA of an IgA nephropathy-related gene using the DNA according to claim 3 claims 3 or 23.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein comprising an amino acid sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO:40.

11. (Original) A recombinant DNA obtained by inserting the DNA according to claim 10 into a vector.

12. (Original) A transformant obtained by introducing the recombinant DNA according to claim 11 into a host cell.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a protein comprising an amino acid sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO:40, comprising:
culturing the transformant according to claim 12 in a medium to produce and accumulate said protein in the culture; and
recovering said protein form the resulting culture.

Claims 14-21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing IgA nephropathy comprising:

(a) detecting a mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO:7 in leukocytes of a subject and healthy person using a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences

consisting of SEQ ID NO:7, 45, 46; a nucleotide sequence identical to continuous 5 to 60 residues in a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7, and a nucleotide sequence complementary to continuous 5 to 60 residues in a nucleotide sequence represented by of SEQ ID NO:7; and

(b) diagnosing IgA nephropathy in the subject based on an increased level of said mRNA in leukocytes of a subject as compared with those of healthy persons.

23. (New) An isolated DNA consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:46.